

HOUSE RESOLUTION 210

By Powers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Katelyn Ann-May Norman of Jacksboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Katelyn Ann-May Norman on March 29, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn was fourteen years old when she died, having valiantly battled osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer to which children are particularly susceptible. She was diagnosed with the disease when she was an eighth-grader and endured much pain and anguish thereafter until her passing; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the cancer that beset her, Katelyn Norman was very energetic and lived life to the fullest; she was always a friend to everyone, and she was a strong advocate against bullying; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn enjoyed many interests and hobbies; she loved music, especially the classical genre and playing banjo; she enjoyed studying geology and oceanography; she was a Star Wars buff; a collector of comics; and she adored the arts, her favorite artist being Post-Impressionist Vincent van Gogh, and her favorite painting being "Starry Night"; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn Norman's life was a journey through God's plan for her that began on August 8, 1998, the day of her birth. Post-cancer diagnosis, the path of her life was destined for the divine purpose of raising awareness of childhood cancer in her community; neither Katelyn nor her plight shall ever be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, she was so beloved by her peers and fellow Campbell Countians that March 26, 2013, which was prom day, was declared "Katelyn Norman Day", and a special prom theme, "Katie in the Sky with Diamonds," was planned; however, instead of attending prom, Katelyn was forced to return to East Tennessee Children's Hospital for aid on that day. With compassion, Katelyn's supporters created an impromptu gathering of prom-goers, family, and

well-wishers at the hospital, where celebration and fun was brought to their sick, yet joyful, friend; and

WHEREAS, on that evening, along the streets and highways near the hospital and stretching back even closer to home, a candlelight vigil grew to thousands, each person doing a simple, but powerful act of the spirit by adding their small, single flame to the aura of light for Katelyn Norman; and

WHEREAS, after the gaiety of her prom evening ended, Katelyn rested the next few days, and on the morning of March 29th, she passed away peacefully into the arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn Norman was an active and devout member of the Cedar Hill Baptist Church, and that is where she learned her life's greatest lessons, those of love, faith, and salvation; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn Norman was deeply devoted to her family. She is survived by her parents, Kelly and Erica Nelson; her siblings, Thomas Sowder, Luke Nelson, Lakien Nelson, and Dylan McCall; grandparents, John and Genelle Hausser, and Donald and Faye Nelson; aunts, Jennifer Norman and Brittany Hausser; her special cousin, Leona Byrd; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn Norman was courageous and showed unfathomable strength in the face of her own premature mortality. She leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, and her spirit and memory will continue gracing her community. More importantly, future osteosarcoma patients will benefit from the childhood cancer awareness foundation which was her priority; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to know of the bountiful but brief life of Katelyn Ann-May Norman and is very proud of her vision and determination to find a cure to this deadly form of childhood cancer; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the memory of Katelyn Ann-May Norman of Jacksboro, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Norman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our best wishes to the Foundation of Katelyn Ann-May Norman Childhood Cancer Awareness for its success in achieving Ms. Norman's vision to find a cure for osteosarcoma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.